

Theological Seminary, now the Interdenominational Theological Center, in 1957, also located in Atlanta. He holds many honorary degrees, including a doctor of divinity degree from both Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri and from Virginia Seminary and College of Lynch, Virginia. His first pastorate was in Pickens, South Carolina. He later served in Wichita, Kansas; Barstow, Florida; and Brunswick, Georgia. As a scholastic theologian, Rev. Hartsfield serves on the board of directors at the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia, in addition to serving as an adjunct professor of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. He is affectionately referred to as the "Dean of Kansas City's ministers" by all denominations. A friend and honored minister, I have dubbed Dr. Hartsfield the "Godfather of Preachers" because of his vast ministerial knowledge and oratorical skills.

Reverend Hartsfield celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Matilda Hopkins on August 28. They are the proud parents of four children, Pamela Faith, Danise Hope, Ruby Love, and Wallace S. Hartsfield II.

Shining brightly as an example of unwavering open-mindedness, commitment, and heartfelt participation within his national community, Reverend Hartsfield has revealed himself as the quintessential citizen of both our American and world populations. The honor owed to this great leader and devoted man of profound faith reaches beyond our local, state, and national levels and touches our wider international community, just as he has sought to touch all of those he has met wherever he goes. He has fought tirelessly to promote, protect, and ensure civil rights and civil liberties for African Americans and other minorities throughout our great nation during its most shameful hours of injustice. He remains a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity created for African Americans. As a prolific and dynamic speaker, he has often been asked to serve as a guest speaker for lectures at colleges, universities, and seminaries locally and internationally, including as far from home as Australia. In 2006, he was selected as a member of an inter-denominational group and met with Turkish officials to tour the country and broaden international faith and community relations.

In many diverse capacities, Reverend Hartsfield has guided his broader, national faith community throughout the entirety of his devotion as a minister. He is a former chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches, representing over 65,000 churches with over 20 million members. Within the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., he served as a member on the Foreign Mission Board, was secretary and treasurer of the Benevolent Board and Insurance Commission, is a former chairman of its Economic Development Commission, is former second vice president, and is currently vice president at-large under the leadership of Dr. Stephen J. Thurston.

Our greater Kansas City and Missouri communities stand stronger having been both blessed with and built upon by a cornerstone as unshakable and committed as Reverend Hartsfield. He was at the forefront of successful efforts to construct low income, 60 unit housing developments known as the Metropolitan Homes, located near the Linwood

Shopping Center, the creation of which is also due largely to the encouragement of Reverend Hartsfield. Furthermore, he served as president of the Baptist Ministers Union, an influential organizer for the Concerned Clergy Association, and a moderator for the Sunshine District Association. Appointed by the Governor, Reverend Hartsfield served as commissioner on the Missouri Highway Commission. He was also president of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of Operation PUSH, an organization dedicated to the promotion of religious and social development and human rights.

While his long list of accolades helps detail his many great talents and achievements, it remains only a small sampling if one tries to understand the deeply positive and vast impact Reverend Hartsfield has so generously imparted to his neighbors. He is named "One of the Top 50 Ministers in America" by Upscale magazine of Atlanta, Georgia. As a local minister, he has received the One Hundred Most Influential Award from the K.C. Globe newspaper, the Greater Kansas City Image Award from the Urban League, and the Minister of the Year Award from the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City. As a public servant, a role inexorably intertwined with his role as a minister, he received the Public Service Award from the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, the Role Model for Youth Award from Penn Valley Community College, and the Community Service Award from the city of Kansas City, Missouri, to name only a few.

Having personally been influenced and encouraged by his generosity, compassion, and myriad successful endeavors throughout his career, I find it among the greatest honors and opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the great victories of Reverend Hartsfield as he prepares to enjoy the next stage of his life, retirement from the vocation of compassion he so joyously fills and will continue to fulfill in a new capacity.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to my dear friend, Reverend Doctor Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr., for his loving ministry and limitless dedication to serving the residents of Kansas City, the State of Missouri, and the worldwide community. Strong, sustainable societies are built upon a foundation of goodness and devotion. It is our hometown heroes, like Reverend Hartsfield, the hallowed and benevolent, who ensure the longevity of, and strengthen, our free and democratic way of life. May God continue to bless Reverend Hartsfield as he embarks upon a new journey of embracing and improving the lives around him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on September 17, 2007, my flight to Washington from New York was delayed and I missed 3 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and had I been present, I would have voted "no" on recorded vote No. 867, "yes" on recorded vote 868, and "yes" on recorded vote 869.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE WILLIAM E. McANULTY, JR.

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the life of a good friend and great public servant. William E. McNulty, Jr., lost his battle with lung cancer on August 23. His passing marks the culmination of an incredible life: the son of an Indiana mailman became the first African American to be elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court.

He will be missed not only by his wonderful family—wife Kristi, sons Patrick and William III, daughters Kathryn and Shannon, and father William E. McNulty—but by legions of friends and admirers who loved him for his incredible wit, his lively intelligence, and his unwavering commitment to justice throughout society.

Bill, or Judge Mac as he was belovedly known, was born in Indianapolis in 1947. He received his B.A. from Indiana University and both his masters and J.D. degrees from the University of Louisville. He was first elected to the bench in 1975 as a judge in Jefferson County Juvenile Court. Two years later he was elected to the Jefferson County District Court, and then he was selected by Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown, Jr., to serve as Secretary of the Justice Cabinet in 1980.

Following his service in Frankfort, Bill was once again elected to the bench, this time to the Jefferson Circuit Court, where he served until 1998, when he became the first African American to be elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

In June, 2006, McNulty was appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher to succeed Justice Martin E. Johnstone, who was retiring. Then last fall, he was elected to that post. While he tried to play down the significance of being the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court, he was well aware of what his accomplishment meant. Upon his swearing in, he said that other African Americans "will understand this door is open and they are able like any other lawyer or judge to enter."

But McNulty was not like any other lawyer or judge. He was universally recognized and applauded for his fairness, his patience, and his disarming sense of humor. When he learned that he had cancer that had spread to his brain and was to undergo surgery, he said his only fear was that he would "wake up as Clarence Thomas or a UK fan."

Justice McNulty was frequently the recipient of professional honors, including the Henry V. Pennington Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1997, awarded by the Kentucky Trial Attorneys.

Unfortunately, no simple biography can adequately describe the person under the black robe. Bill was one of those rare individuals who was equally comfortable with princes and paupers, and who never thought about the difference. I was fortunate to know him for more than 25 years, and most recently, as we both campaigned last year, I saw firsthand how deeply he cared about the least among us, and how steadfast was his commitment to combat injustice wherever he saw it.

I know he would have seen some kind of cosmic irony in the fact that his crowning